



EI-news

IRTS supporting Amateur Radio



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Beginning June 1st 2018, the EIDX Group will activate all Irish IOTA Groups. Using the 'Echo Juliet' prefix, EJ0DXG will be QRV from IOTA EU-006, EU-007, EU-103 and EU-121 this summer.



Supported by dxwanted.net a beautiful plaque will be available for whoever works them on 4 different IOTA Groups. So, as a 'Bonus' or 'Wildcard' station, EI0DXG will also be QRV from Mainland Ireland (EU-115) throughout and until September 30th 2018.

Teams are already confirmed with all necessary permissions in hand. 6m fans should note that some of these islands are also in rare Grid squares and for Worked All Ireland followers...will also count towards the Island award.

Starting off with 'Little Saltee Island' EU-103 on June 15/16/17/18th....the group will be QRV on HF and 6m bands using CW, SSB and Digital modes.

July will see activity from the Great Blasket Island EU-007 where as August will see EU-121 grace the bands from Bere Island. Their last Island activity ends September 16th as part of their DX Féile weekend from Inishmore, Aran Islands EU-006.

More information can be found on their Facebook page, just search for Irish Islands IOTA Tour 2018.



Comments Sought by IRTS Sub-Committee.

Following a spectrum award by ComReg the entire 4m band (69.9 - 70.5 MHz) is now available to Irish licensees. Additionally frequencies in the range 30-49 Mhz and 54-69.9 Mhz have also been made available.

IRTS has developed a draft Band Plan for the frequency band 40 – 44 MHz, a new 8 metre band. For the time being usage of 30 – 40 MHz and 44 – 49 MHz has not been planned. IRTS considers that the band most likely to be transverted to an IF of 28 – 30 MHz might be 40 – 42 MHz.

IRTS is now consulting EI amateur licensees on two band plans covering 40 - 44 MHz and 54 - 69.9 MHz. More details including draft band plans can be downloaded from the IRTS website, www.irts.ie/downloads

Comments as soon as possible to newspectrum@irts.ie to arrive not later than 30th June 2018.

Items for inclusion in Echo Ireland, EiNews or the IRTS Radio News should be Emailed to:
newsteam@irts.ie



Contest News: The results of the 40 Metres Counties Contest held on 6th May have been published. 24 logs were submitted, including 9 from overseas stations, a good outcome given the difficult band conditions on the day. The submitted logs contained almost 500 QSOs involving stations in 19 EI and GI counties and 15 overseas DXCC entities. The full results can be seen at www.irts.ie/results

CW Field Day takes place over next weekend, starting at 15:00 UTC on Saturday 2nd June, and coincides with similar contests in many other IARU Region 1 countries. The contest runs for 24 hours, however members have the option of entering the Restricted Section by operating for no more than 6 hours of the contest period; operation need not be for one continuous 6-hour period, but once operation has commenced in the contest, off periods must be a minimum of 60 minutes. See www.irts.ie/contests for the full rules.

Mayo VHF Group: Joe, EI3IX, and John, EI7 FAB, and Phil, EI/ON4TA, regularly operate from high locations operating 23cm, 13cm and 10GHz equipment. They are also interested in contacts on 70cms and 2 metres using FM and SSB. For information about their proposed activities see the Mayo VHF Group Facebook page which is regularly updated.

Promotion of VHF Activities:

There are numerous initiatives by groups around the country promoting the activation of the VHF and UHF bands and repeaters. The Southern Ireland Repeater Network (SIRN) provides an excellent service with many of their repeaters linked. This means that if you access one of them it is possible to be retransmitted on several within the network. DMR Talk Group 27240 is linked into the SIRN thereby increasing the chances of activity. This wishing to avail of the new allocation from 30 to 49 MHz and 54 to 69.9 MHz and 69.9 MHz to 70.5 MHz should consider some of the ex-military equipment such as the Clansman RT352 which covers the frequency range of 30 – 76 MHz in 25KHz steps running a power of 20 Watts or just the basic RT351 which runs 4 watts. Both of these units have sensitive receivers and may be found in the E-bay listings.

Following a Winter break, the latest episode of **TX Factor** has been released.

Here's what's on offer in Episode 21:



- Learning how to operate through linear satellites
- Programming DMR handsets, Code Plugs and digital radio parrots
- A look at using a SharkRF openSPOT digital radio IP gateway.
- A review of the new Icom IC-7610 transceiver
- Plus the chance to win a Prism dust cover for your rig, and a copy of the book "Amsats and HamSats"

To watch the latest episode, go to <http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/current-show.html>

HamVideo transmitter test: Since mid April, the HamVideo transmitter onboard Columbus has not been working. On Friday June 1, 2018 the Ham Video system will be tested.



The transmitter will be down powered step by step. Next the antenna cable will be connected to the second S-band antenna. Finally, the transmitter will be powered on step by step.

These operations, to be performed by crew, are scheduled 17.25 - 17.55 UTC. The ISS will pass over Europe 45 minutes later, at 18.40 UTC.

Ground stations are invited to monitor the signal and report.

Interested parties can monitor the test by connecting to: <https://live.ariss.org/hamtv/>



Committee Meetings: The IRTS would like to remind all affiliated clubs to nominate a member of their club who is also a member of IRTS to act as the club's representative for this year. Some clubs have already done so. For additional information regarding this role, please make contact with the IRTS Secretary.

IRTS Officers and Club Reps are entitled to attend the monthly IRTS meetings and are most welcome. Meetings start at 11.00 and finish at 1300.

The Date - Time – Venue for the next three IRTS Committee Meetings are as follows:

Saturday 23rd June 11am Creggan Court Hotel, Athlone.

Saturday 21st July 11am Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

Saturday 15th September 11am Creggan Court Hotel, Athlone.



Ye Olde Hurdy Gurdy Museum of Vintage Radio will take part in the **International Museums Weekend** event on Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th of June from the Martello Tower in Howth using the callsign EI0MAR.

Visitors are welcome to come along and particularly welcome are volunteer operators on CW or SSB. If interested in operating please send details of when you would be available to ei0mar@eircom.net.

Contests – June 2018

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) : [RSGB HF Contests](#) : [UKEICC Contests](#) : [IRTS Contests](#)

Sat 2	15:00	24 hours	<u>IRTS CW Field Day</u>	160-10m, work everyone, exchange Serials
Sat 2	15:00	24 hours	<u>Dutch Kingdom CW/SSB</u>	40-6m, work everyone, exchange Serials
Mon 4	19:00	90 mins	<u>RSGB CC Data</u>	80m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Sat 9	12:00	24 hours	<u>Portugal Day CW/SSB</u>	80m-10m, work everyone, send Serial, log District Code
Sun 10	09:00	7 hours	<u>Practical Wireless QRP</u>	2m, send Serial & Locator
Wed 13	19:00	90 mins	<u>RSGB CC CW</u>	80m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Sat 16	00:00	48 hours	<u>All Asian DX C</u>	160-10m, work Asian stations, send Age
Sat 16	12:00	24 hours	<u>Ukranian DX Classic RTTY</u>	80-10m, work everyone, send Serial, log Oblast
Sat 16	15:00	24 hours	<u>Stew Perry Topband CW</u>	160m, exchange four character grid (e.g. IO62)
Thu 28	19:00	90 mins	<u>RSGB CC SSB</u>	80m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Every Wed	60 mins		<u>CWops Mini Contests</u>	160-10m, three separate CW contests

List compiled by Joe [EI7GY](#) (All times are UTC)